AeroGarden™

# Salsa Garden

## Tending & Harvesting Guide

Planting Date:_____

# Welcome

Thank you for your purchase of our AeroGarden. We have spent years developing and refining our technology to create a growing system that assures you will have a pleasurable and successful year-round gardening experience.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your AeroGarden and sharing your healthy harvest with your family and friends.

Best Regards,

Michael Bissonnette

Michael Bissonnette
Founder and CEO
AeroGrow International, Inc.

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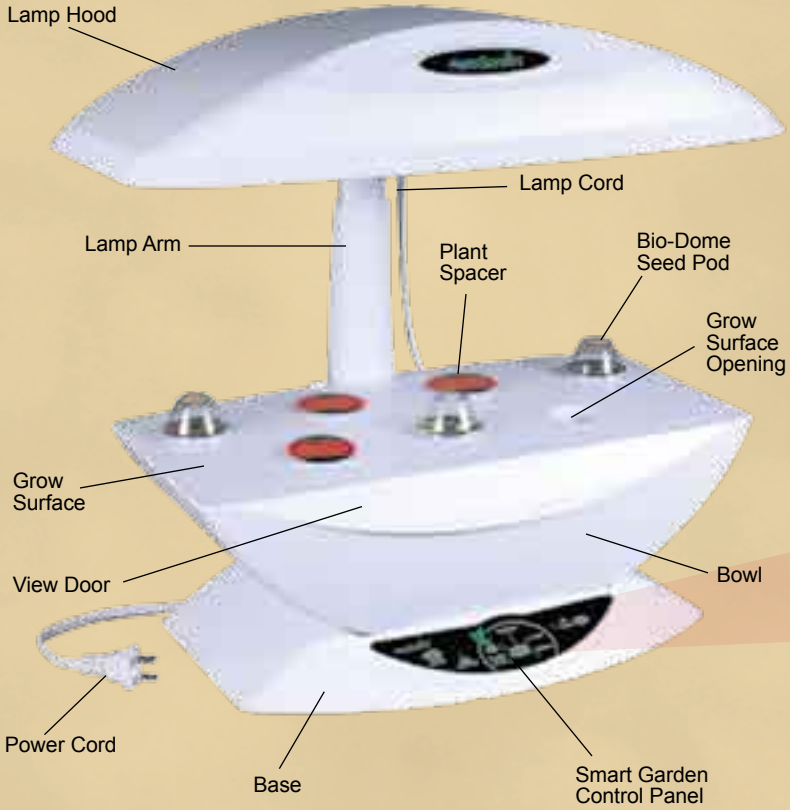
If you have an AeroGarden PRO*100*, please refer to the supplemental instructions starting on page 40 of this Guide.

*Whoever plants a garden plants happiness.*
*– CHINESE PROVERB*

# Your AeroGarden

## AeroGarden Features



## Seed Kit Components

Bio-Dome (3)

Seed Pod (3)

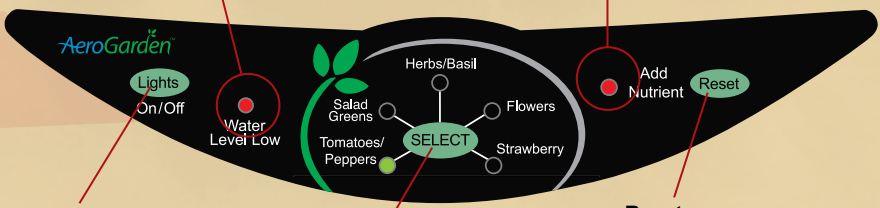
Plant Spacer (4)

**Nutrients:**
2 Starting Nutrients
2 Growing Nutrients
18 Fruiting Nutrients

## Smart Garden Control Panel Features

**Water Level Low**
Light blinks when it is time to add water

**Add Nutrient**
Light blinks when it is time to add nutrient tablets (every 2 weeks)




**Lights**
Manually turns the lights on or off

**Select**
Sets Control Panel to your Seed Kit type

**Reset**
Press after adding nutrients to restart the nutrient timer and turn off the blinking lights

# Tending Your Garden

A little bit of care for your Garden will ensure rapid growth and bountiful harvests. You will start to see sprouts in a few days. In a few months, you will experience the transformation of your seeds into sweet, juicy tomatoes and zesty, hot jalapeño peppers.

Please take a moment to review this section shortly after planting your Garden (see page 27 for *Reminders About Planting Your Garden*).

## Salsa Garden Timeline

Your tomato and pepper plants will germinate in just a few days.

After 2 weeks

After 6 weeks

## Salsa Garden Planting Layout

Check that your *Bio-Dome Seed Pods* are in the same position on the *Grow Surface* as they appear in the *Seed Kit Tray*. We find that this arrangement gives the plants optimal spacing and light exposure.

You will see them grow very quickly after that.

After 9 weeks

After 14 weeks

## Remove Domes

- A few days after planting your AeroGarden, tiny tomato plants will appear through the center hole in the *Label* on the tomato *Seed Pods*. (Your pepper plants will sprout a few days to a week later.)

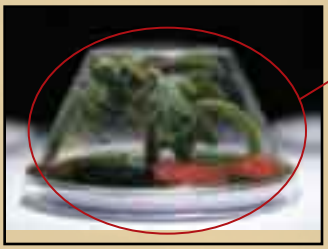
  When plants appear, remove the *Domes* from each *Seed Pod* and discard or recycle. Do not remove the label.

- Remove the *Domes* only from *Seed Pods* with emerging plants.

- To reduce plant stress, we recommend removing the *Domes* shortly after the lights turn off or near the end of the light cycle.

- Leave the *Plant Spacers* in the *Grow Surface*. These provide room for your tomato and pepper plants to grow and reduce algae growth.

Each *Seed Pod Label* indicates the number of days until your seeds sprout.



*Don't let this happen!* If your plant is curled inside the *Dome*, it was left on too long. *Immediately remove* Dome.

! Never remove the labels. They promote germination, decrease algae growth and identify your plants.

## Thin Plants

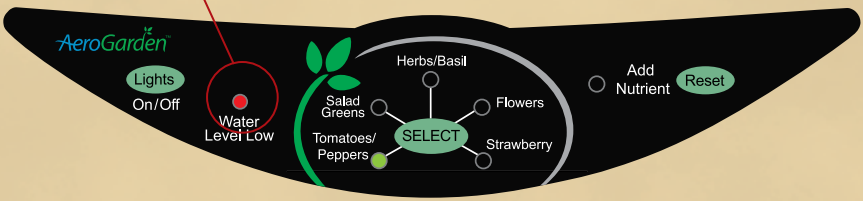
- When your tomato and pepper plants are about 1″ tall, check each *Seed Pod* for multiple plants. Using scissors, gently snip the smallest plants at the base of the stem, leaving ONE healthy plant in each *Seed Pod*.
- Thinning seedlings ensures that the remaining plant in each *Seed Pod* will have room to grow, get enough nutrients and water, and produce many, many fruits.

! Be sure to cut, not pull, the extra seedlings to avoid damaging the roots of the strongest plant in each *Seed Pod*.

# Add Water

- When additional water is needed, the "Water Level Low" light on the *Control Panel* will blink. Add water to raise the level up to *"Fill To Here"* inside the *Bowl*.
- It is okay to add water up to *"Fill To Here"* before the "Water Level Low" light blinks.
- When your tomato and pepper plants mature, they may need water as often as twice a week. Be sure to check the "Water Level Low" light regularly.

**Smart Garden Control Panel**




- Use room-temperature water. Very hot or very cold water will hurt your plants.
- We recommend using municipal tap, bottled or purified water. Well or softened water SHOULD NOT be used because the extra minerals in these sources may be harmful to aeroponically grown plants.

# Feed Garden

**Every 2 weeks, both the "Add Nutrient" and "Water Level Low" lights will blink on and off. At that time:**

### First Feeding After Planting

1. Add the 2 nutrient tablets from the bag labeled "Growing Nutrients."

### Feedings After "Growing Nutrients" Are Gone

1. Add 2 nutrient tablets from the bag labeled "Fruiting Nutrients" and reseal the bag.

### Every Time You Add Nutrient Tablets, Be Sure To:

2. Add water to raise the water level up to *"Fill To Here"* in the *Bowl*. This will ensure that the nutrients do not become too concentrated.

3. Press the "*Reset*" button to restart the nutrient timer and turn off the blinking lights.

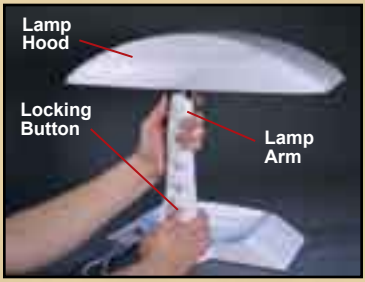
*Note: We recommend checking for bugs every time you add nutrients. See Troubleshooting on page 34 of this guide for details.*

# Raise Lights

**As your plants begin to grow, leave approximately 1-2 inches of space between the top of plants and the lights.**

**To raise the lights:**

1. Unplug the AeroGarden (the backup system will save your settings).
2. Carefully remove the *Bowl* from the *Base* and set aside.
3. Turn the AeroGarden around so the back of the *Lamp Arm* is facing you.
4. Firmly hold the lower section of the *Lamp Arm* and push in the *Locking Button* on the *Arm*. With your other hand, grasp the silver ring at the top of the *Arm* (where the *Lamp Hood* attaches to the *Arm*). Pull up firmly on *Lamp Hood* until the *Locking Button* becomes visible in the next hole.




*Move* Locking Button *up only one hole at a time. The lights need to be close to the plants for optimal light intensity.*

5. Replace the *Bowl* on the *Base* and plug in your AeroGarden.
6. *Lift the* View Door *to check that the water is flowing. If not, refer to Troubleshooting on page 35 of this guide.*

! If the *Grow Bulbs* are too close to the plants, the leaves may brown and burn. If they are too far away, your plants will "stretch" towards the light and look floppy and unhealthy.

# Prune Plants

Pruning plants strengthens the main stem and helps the plant branch out (rather than grow straight up). A strong plant with many branches will be able to bear the weight of many tomatoes and jalapeño peppers without tipping over or breaking. Pruning also ensures that all the plants get enough light for optimal growth.

*Refer to the pepper icon for pepper-specific instructions and the tomato icon for tomato-specific instructions.*

## Young Plants

### Pruning 3- to 4-Week-Old Pepper Plants

When a pepper plant has 3 branches growing off of the main stem it is time to prune the plant. This typically happens about 3 to 4 weeks after planting your Garden.

- Cut and remove the main stem of the pepper plant just above the third branch.

*The photo at right shows how your plant should look after pruning the main stem.*

*(Continued on next page)*

### Pruning 4- to 5-Week-Old Tomato Plants

About 4 to 5 weeks after planting your Garden, it is time to prune your young tomato plants.

- From the base of the plant, follow the main stem up past the first 5 branches.

- Cut the main stem just above the 5th branch.

*The photo at left shows how your plant should look after it has had its first pruning.*

! Skip this pruning if your Garden is older than 5 weeks and has flowers or considerably more growth than pictured at left.

## Mature Plants *(Ongoing Pruning)*

To optimize the growth of your Garden and ensure strong plants and bountiful harvests, you'll need to occasionally prune the large leaves from pepper plants and some of the branches from your tomato plants.

### Prune Jalapeño Plants *(Ongoing)*

As your jalapeño plants grow, the leaves may begin to shade the tomato plants in the back row of your Garden, blocking the intense light they need to grow.

- Remove the large jalapeño pepper leaves with scissors or pinch off with your fingers.

*The photo at right shows how your plant might look after pruning the larger leaves. Notice that the tomato plants are no longer shaded.*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Pruning Tomato Plants to Control Horizontal Spreading *(Ongoing)*

Prune tomato branches that are growing outside the reach of the *Lamp Hood's* lights.

The picture at right shows a bird's eye view of plants that need pruning. *The circled branches hang too far over the edge of the* Grow Surface *and do not receive enough light from the* Lamp Hood *to be productive.*

Use scissors to cut branches that hang over the edge of the *Grow Surface*. Make your cut so that the branch is even with the *Grow Surface.*

*The photo at right shows the same Garden after pruning. The branches no longer hang over the edge of the* Grow Surface.

*Note: You don't need to remove the Lamp Hood to prune your plants.*

## Pruning Tomato Plants to Control Plant Height *(Ongoing)*

Branches that touch the lights when the *Lamp Hood* is at the highest setting need to be pruned.

Use scissors to cut tomato branches that are growing into the lights. Follow the branch to where it meets another branch – make cut just before this junction.

*Don't be discouraged if you end up cutting a branch with some flowers, or even a few small unripe tomatoes. Pruning strengthens your plants and allows your Garden to put energy into growing branches that can support many tomatoes.*

*The photo at right shows the same Garden after pruning. The branches are no longer growing into the* Lamp Hood.

# Pollinate Tomato and Pepper Flowers

In nature, pollination is done by the bees and the wind. Indoors, your tomato and pepper plants depend on you to pollinate them.

You will need to start pollinating your plants regularly once they begin to flower (approximately 4 weeks after planting for tomatoes and about a week later for peppers).

1. Place an open hand gently inside the plant branches.
2. Move your hand rapidly back and forth about 10 times to shake the plants. This movement will spread the pollen, though you will not be able to see it moving.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each plant.

   Pollinate your flowering plants at least every other day, and only when the lights are on.

! Hand pollinating is an important task. Tomatoes and peppers will only grow from pollinated flowers.

*Special Note: Some people are allergic to the pollen in chili pepper flowers. If you think you may be sensitive to chili pollen, we recommend you use disposable gloves and a mask when pollinating your plants to avoid touching and/or inhaling the pollen.*

# Keep Your Salsa Garden Healthy

**Keeping a watchful eye on your Garden is not only a joy, but also a smart way to make sure your plants stay healthy.**

Tomato Plant

As your plants age you may see some brown or yellow leaves. This is perfectly normal.

- Remove these leaves with scissors or pinch off with your fingers.
- Keep the *Grow Surface* clear of dead leaves.

Pepper Plant

For tomato plants, remove dead, brown stems at the base with scissors. These older branches will not continue to produce tomatoes.

# Plant Problems and Remedies

These pictures show plants that are stressed. Follow the suggestions to restore your Garden's health.

**Wilted**

Garden is not getting enough water. Check water level.

**Burned**

Plant is too close to the *Grow Bulbs*. Raise the *Lamp Hood*.

**Curled Inside *Dome***

*Dome* was left on too long. Immediately remove *Dome*.

**Unpollinated Flower**

If you see flower blooms on your *Grow Surface,* your plants are not being pollinated sufficiently. Pollinate your plants as described on page 17.

## Support Tomato Plants

If you did not prune your tomato plants as described earlier in this Guide, you may find your plants are starting to tip over or even break due to the many juicy tomatoes now growing and ripening on the vines.

When this occurs, support your tomato plants and bring them back to the upright position by securing each plant to the *Lamp Arm* with a tie.

### Suggested Materials to Use for Supporting Tomato Plants

There are a variety of materials you can use to support your tomato plants, all of which are easy to find at a local hardware store or even in your own home. Some options are shown at right.

Ribbon (at least 1/4 inch), velcro plant ties, or old stockings will all work for securing your plants.

! Do not use ties that will dig into (and damage) the stem, such as string or wire. Also avoid materials that stretch, such as stretch ties sold in gardening shops, as these are not strong enough to support heavily laden tomato branches.

*(Continued on next page)*

## How To Support Tomato Plants

The plant on the right is in need of support. The following steps explain how to support your plants.

- Loop a tie around the main stem at a point where it:

  a) is strong enough not to bend or break when the tie is secured, and

  b) stands upright when the tie is pulled towards the *Lamp Arm*.

***Helpful Hint:*** *The best way to figure out where to place the tie is to very gently push on the main stem with your fingers, testing for strength and ability to support the plant. Typically, your tie will be no more than 2″ above the base of the plant.*

- Tightly loop one end of the tie two times around the *Lamp Arm*. Hold the tie in position with one hand. With the other hand, gently pull the opposite end of the tie to bring the main stem to an upright position.

- Secure the two ends of the tie to each other (in this case, we used velcro).
- If you notice other heavy branches that need additional support, secure them to the *Lamp Arm* as well.

*The photo at right shows the same Garden after tie supports have been added.*

! Loosen or untie the supports before raising the *Lamp Hood,* to avoid damaging the plant stems.

# Harvest Your Salsa Garden

**After approximately 10 to 12 weeks, you can begin harvesting your tomato and pepper plants!**

- Pick your tomatoes and peppers gently with your fingers.
- Continue to hand pollinate flowers.

## Tomatoes

- A ripe tomato feels firm, but has a little bit of "give" when pressed.
- Harvest tomatoes just before eating for a "sun-ripened" sweet flavor.
- Harvest tomatoes in clusters to retain freshness if they are not going to be used immediately. If you leave the tomatoes on their stems they will continue to draw moisture and nutrients from their stems several days after they've been harvested.
- *Never Refrigerate Fresh Tomatoes!* Cold temperatures make the flesh of a tomato pulpy and destroy the flavor.

**Under Ripe**

**Ripening**

**Ripe**

## Jalapeño Peppers

A jalapeño is ready for picking when it is fully grown – 2 to 3″. Once your jalapeño peppers are ripe, they start changing color (and become hotter). Choose your desired level of heat by when you harvest.

### How Hot Are Your Jalapeño Peppers?

Capsaicin is the oil in chili peppers that makes them hot. Its concentration (measured in Scoville Units) increases as peppers ripen and can range from 0 in a sweet pepper to a fiery 300,000 in a habañero pepper.

The jalapeño peppers in your Salsa Garden have a Scoville rating ranging from 2,500 for unripe peppers to 8,000 for ripe peppers. Choose your level of heat by when you harvest your peppers.

**Mini Jalapeños**
2,500 (green, *unripe*) to 8,000 (red, *ripe*)

### Handling Your Jalapeño Peppers

- The oil in chilies can cause an unpleasant burning sensation to eyes and skin. When preparing chili peppers, try to limit your handling of the oil contained in the inner flesh and seeds, and wear rubber gloves if possible.
- Keep some vinegar on hand to neutralize the oil from the pepper if it comes in contact with your skin.
- Avoid touching your eyes and face until you have washed your hands thoroughly with soap.

## Recipes Galore!

- Enliven a quiche by adding quartered cherry tomatoes and chopped jalapeños before cooking.
- For a quick snack, mix diced jalapeño peppers with cream cheese, spread on crusty bread, and top with halved cherry tomatoes.
- To add mild heat to a stew, sauce or soup, cut a few slits in a whole jalapeño pepper. Insert a toothpick or skewer, then add it to the food that is already cooking. When the dish is done, remove and discard the pepper.

### Fiesta Salsa

15 cherry tomatoes
1/2 medium red onion
1/2 green jalapeño pepper
1/2 lime
1/3 cup tomato juice
1/2 tsp ground cumin
Salt and pepper to taste

Chop cherry tomatoes, onion and jalapeño pepper and combine all in a bowl. Add fresh lime juice, tomato juice, cumin and salt and pepper to taste. Mix all ingredients.

Makes 1-2 cups

## Herbed Tomato Pasta Salad

10 cherry tomatoes, quartered
1/4 tsp sugar
1/3 cup mixed, chopped fresh herbs
1/4 lb small pasta
*(penne, macaroni, campanella, etc.)*
1 clove garlic, chopped
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper

Stir together tomatoes, sugar and herbs in a large bowl until combined well. Cook pasta in boiling, salted water until al dente, then drain. Add hot pasta to tomato mixture. Cook garlic in olive oil, for 1 minute, in a small saucepan over moderately high heat. Stir. Add garlic and oil to pasta and tomatoes. Toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper.

Serves 1

## Pico de Gallo

A flavorful relish that makes a great topping for tacos, fajitas, or even a hamburger.

15 cherry tomatoes, quartered
1/4 tsp fresh ground pepper
1/2 onion, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 jalapeño, diced
1 Tbsp olive oil
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1/2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
1 Tbsp salt

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and refrigerate for at least 6 hours to allow flavors to blend (longer is better) before serving.

Makes 1-2 cups

**For more recipes visit www.aerogrow.com**

# Reminders About Planting Your Garden

**Please use the Quick Start Guide included in your original AeroGarden box for more detailed setup instructions. If you no longer have your Quick Start Guide, you can find a copy of it on our website at www.aerogrow.com.**

## Setting up Your AeroGarden

1. Is the *Lamp Arm* firmly inserted into the *Base*?
2. Are the *Grow Bulbs* firmly inserted into the sockets in the *Lamp Hood*?
3. Is the *Lamp Cord* plugged into the *Lamp Hood*?
4. Is the *Bowl* securely placed in the *Base*?
5. Is there water in your *Bowl* up to *"Fill To Here"*?
6. Is your *Lamp Hood* at the lowest level?

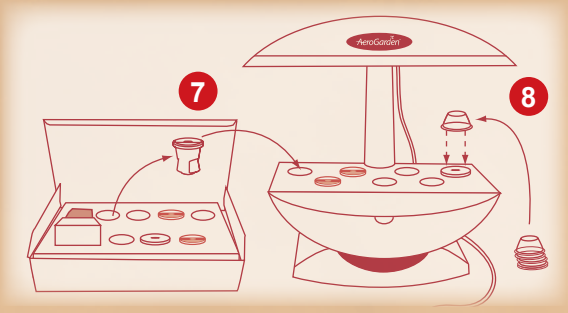
## Planting Your Garden

7. Does the *Seed Pod* arrangement in the *Grow Surface* match the layout in the *Seed Kit Tray*?
8. Did you put a *Dome* on each *Seed Pod*?
9. Are the *Seed Pods* pressed firmly into the *Grow Surface* openings (until the rim of the *Dome* almost touches the *Grow Surface*)?
10. Did you add 2 *Starting Nutrient* tablet?
11. Did you record your planting date on the cover of this guide?

## Starting Your Garden

12. Did you plug in your AeroGarden?
    - Is the water flowing?
    - Are the *Grow Bulbs* on?
13. Did you select your plant type?

11




## NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?

**Call: 1-800-476-9669 Email: customerservice@aerogrow.com**
**Visit Our Website: www.aerogrow.com/help**

# Questions and Answers About Your Nutrients

### What is in the nutrient tablets?

AeroGarden nutrient tablets consist mainly of mineral salts. These provide the 13 micro- and macro-nutrients that all plants require, in just the right proportions for your tomato and pepper plants. The tablets also contain:

- Seaweed for a boost of 65 micro-nutrients and trace elements
- A buffer so you can use tap water for your plants
- A binder to hold the tablet together

### Are the nutrients organic?

The AeroGarden nutrient tablets are organic, according to current AAPFCO (American Association of Plant Food Control Officials) standards.

### Can I use leftover nutrient tablets from a different *Seed Kit* with my Salsa Garden?

No. The nutrient tablets are specially formulated for each *Seed Kit*. Using nutrient tablets from a different *Seed Kit* type may harm your tomato or pepper plants and result in less than optimal flavor and growth.

### What happens if I run out of nutrients while my Garden is still growing?

You can extend the life of your Garden by ordering additional nutrients. Call 1-800-476-9669 and select the "Place an Order" option.

**NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?** **Call: 1-800-476-9669**
**Email: customerservice@aerogrow.com**
**Visit Our Website: www.aerogrow.com/help**

# Questions and Answers About Your Lights

### Do I need to turn the AeroGarden lights on and off manually?

No. Your AeroGarden includes a built-in timer that turns your lights on and off at specific intervals. These intervals are designed to maximize the growth of your tomato and pepper plants. The timing system started as soon as you plugged in your AeroGarden. Every day it will automatically turn your lights on for 16 hours beginning at that time. For example, if you plugged in your AeroGarden at 7:00 in the morning, your lights will stay on until 11:00 in the evening, then automatically turn off for 8 hours, and automatically turn back on at 7:00 the next morning.

### Can I change the time of day the lights go off?

Yes. To change the time your lights go off, follow the simple steps in "Set Your Light Timer" in the next section of this guide.

### Does it matter what time of day the lights go off?

Yes. Tomato and pepper plants require a daily dark period in order to produce flowers. If your plants will receive any room light during the day (either natural or artificial) we recommend that you set your AeroGarden grow lights to be on during the day and off at night.

### Can I change the number of hours the lights are on and off?

Only by selecting a different plant type on the *Smart Garden Control Panel*. The "Tomatoes/Peppers" setting will keep your lights on for 16 hours and off for 8 hours, which is an ideal light cycle for rapid growth of tasty tomatoes and peppers.

### Can I temporarily turn off my lights (for example, to darken the kitchen for a candlelight dinner)?

Absolutely. The "Lights" button on the *Smart Garden Control Panel* is an on/off switch. Just push and then immediately release this button to manually turn the lights off (or back on). This will not change any of the settings for your AeroGarden and your lights will turn on (or off) at the next regularly programmed time. Occasional use of this feature will not harm or slow the growth of your plants.

# Set Your Light Timer

### Your Built-In Light Timer

Your AeroGarden has lights and a built-in timer that automatically provide your plants with 16 hours of "sunlight" and 8 hours of "night," which is optimal for the healthy growth of tomatoes and peppers.

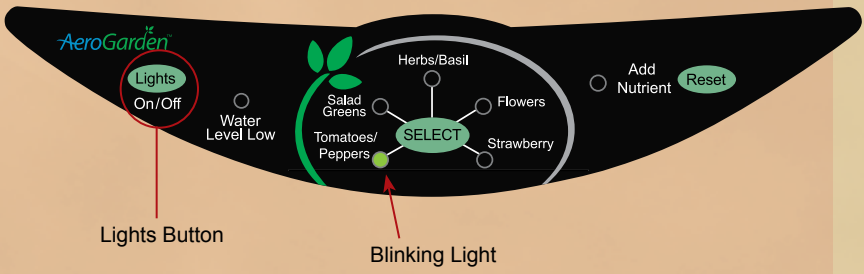
Tomato and pepper plants require a daily dark period in order to produce flowers. If your plants will receive any room light during the day (either natural or artificial) we recommend that you set your AeroGarden grow lights to be on during the day as well.

## 5 Simple Steps...

In order to make this as simple as possible you only need to set the time you want the lights of your AeroGarden to go off (Off Time) and your built-in light timer automatically sets the On Time... nothing more for you to do.

**Do the following to set the time you want your lights to go off:**

1. Decide what time of day you want the lights to go *OFF*.
2. *AT THAT TIME* check that the lights are on. If they are off, quickly press the *Lights* button and immediately release.
3. Press and hold the *Lights* button *until* the green light next to "Tomatoes/Peppers" starts blinking – *about 5 seconds*.
4. Release the button.
5. When the blinking stops (*about 9 seconds*), the lights will go off. Your lights are now set to go off at this time every day.




**Now, each day, your AeroGarden lights will automatically**

- Turn off at the time you set using the steps on the previous page
- Remain off for 8 hours
- Turn on for 16 hours

**You can reset your timer as often as you want.**

*Note: In case of power failure, your AeroGarden has a backup system that stores your light and nutrient timers and plant selection settings. When the power is restored, your AeroGarden will go back to the Off-On cycle you have set.*

# Troubleshooting

### What do I do when one of my *Grow Bulbs* burns out?

Replacement bulbs can be ordered from our website at **www.aerogrow.com**. You should replace your *Grow Bulbs* after 6 months of use.

### What should I do if my *Grow Bulbs* aren't working?

Make sure the *Grow Bulbs* are firmly inserted into the sockets in the *Lamp Hood*. Also check that the *Lamp Cord* is plugged into the *Lamp Hood*.

### How long does the backup battery last?

If your AeroGarden has a backup battery located in the underside of the *Base*, it will work for 6 months after activation. To replace it, use any CR2032 3-volt lithium battery.

(*Newer AeroGardens no longer rely on batteries to power the backup system.*)

### What do I do if I want to move my AeroGarden to another location?

Go right ahead! Your AeroGarden has a built-in backup system that lets you unplug it without losing any of the settings.

To move your AeroGarden, be sure to pick it up by holding the *Lamp Arm* with one hand and sliding your other hand under the bottom of the *Base*.

### Why have my seeds not sprouted a week after planting my Garden?

Tomato and pepper seeds need temperatures above 60°(F) to germinate (sprout) and temperatures between 70-80° are optimal. Perhaps you have placed your AeroGarden close to an air conditioning unit or a very cold window. Move your AeroGarden to a warmer location in your house. The seeds should germinate within five days.

### Why do I have many flowers on my plants, but not even one green tomato or small pepper ten weeks after planting my Garden?

The flowers on your plants are not pollinated. Make sure to hand pollinate your flowers every other day, as described on page 17 of this guide.

### What do I do if I see bugs?

Occasionally bugs might decide to visit your plants. You will mainly see aphids who usually find their way into homes by hitching a ride on clothing or cut flowers. They are clever about hiding under leaves and in the joints between leaves and plant stems, so they can be difficult to see at first.

Initial signs that you have bugs are either unhealthy-looking plants or a sticky substance on the AeroGarden's *Grow Surface*.

To identify the bugs, we recommend you visit either *www.whatsthatbug.com* or the entomology (bug) department at Texas A&M University at *http://vegipm.tamu.edu/imageindex.html*.

This is the easiest way we've found to get rid of bugs:

1. Remove the *Bowl* from the *Base*.
2. Carefully lift the entire *Seed Pod* and plant out of the *Grow Surface*.
3. Turn the plant upside down in a sink and gently run room temperature water over the underside of the leaves to rinse the bugs off.
4. Check your plant for any remaining bugs – rinse again if necessary – and then return the plant and *Seed Pod* to the AeroGarden.
5. Check all surrounding plants to make sure the bugs haven't spread. If they have, follow the above steps with any other buggy plants.
6. Replace *Bowl* on the *Base*.

*(Continued on next page)*

### How do I take care of my Garden when I go out of town?

Add water to raise the level up to *"Fill To Here."* A newly planted Garden with *Domes* removed may not need care for up to 2 weeks. However, if your Garden is mature and you will be out of town for several days, we recommend you make arrangements for someone to care for your Garden while you are away.

### Shouldn't water always be flowing over my *Seed Pods* and plant roots?

Yes and no. When you selected "Tomatoes/Peppers" on your *Smart Garden Control Panel* you selected a setting that has been specially designed to optimize the growth of tomato and pepper plants by regulating the flow of water to the roots of your plants.

On the "Tomatoes/Peppers" setting, the AeroGarden moves water through the *Seed Pods* whenever the lights are on, and for an additional 4 hours when the lights are off to achieve maximum growth and flavorful fruit.

If your lights are on and the water isn't flowing in your AeroGarden, please check the following:

- Is the *Lamp Arm* fully inserted into the *Base*? (see your Quick Start Guide, step 1B).
- Is the *Bowl* firmly seated in the *Base*? (see your Quick Start Guide, step 1F).
- If the water still isn't flowing, contact Customer Service (*see back cover of this Guide for contact options*).

### My tomato and pepper plants are over 10 weeks old and they have no flowers yet.

There are two possible reasons for this.

1. *Not enough dark hours* - tomato and pepper plants require a daily dark period in

order to produce flowers. If your plants will receive any room light during the day (either natural or artificial) we recommend that you set your AeroGarden grow lights to be on during the day as well. (See "Set Your Light Timer" on page 31.)

2. *Room Temperature* – tomatoes and peppers also prefer cool temperatures during this dark period. In order to maximize plant flowering, room temperatures should not exceed 90° during the day and 75° at night.

### My Garden doesn't look healthy. What can I do?

If you are concerned about the health of your Garden, please go through the following before calling Customer Service…

- Keep the lights as close to your plants as possible, without the leaves touching the *Grow Bulbs*.
- Follow the pruning instructions in the *Prune Plants* section of this guide.
- Don't use softened or unfiltered well water.
- Continually harvest ripe tomatoes and peppers.

### What can I do to reduce the sound of water dripping from the *Seed Pods* into the *Bowl*?

Keeping the water level in the *Bowl* up to *"Fill To Here"* will help reduce the sound of dripping water. You can further reduce the dripping sound by wrapping or tying a string around the post of each *Plant Spacer* and allow it to extend into the water. The water will run down these strings instead of dripping directly into the *Bowl*. As your plants grow and the roots reach the water in the *Bowl*, the dripping noise will go away completely.

# Prepare for Your Next Garden

**After the final harvesting of your tomatoes and peppers:**

1. Unplug the AeroGarden.

2. Carefully remove the *Bowl* and *Grow Surface* from the *Base* and bring to a sink.

   Set the *Base* and *Lamp Hood* aside.

   *NEVER SUBMERSE* BASE *AND* CONTROL PANEL *IN WATER.*

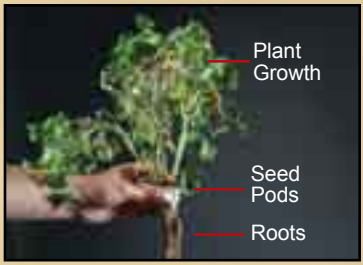
3. Remove the *Grow Surface* from the *Bowl* and place on a counter near the sink.

4. Empty contents of *Bowl* into sink.

! Do not pour the water on your houseplants. The nutrient mixture may be too concentrated for them.

**5** Remove *Seed Pods* and plants from *Grow Surface*.

- Pull the *Seed Pods* out of the *Grow Surface* openings.
- Throw away *Seed Pods* and plant debris (plant growth and roots). These cannot be reused. If you compost, the plant debris can be composted.




**6** Rinse and clean the *Pump Stand* and *Pump Filter**.

- Use a soft scrub brush to clean tangled roots from the *Pump Stand*.
- Remove the *Pump Filter* from the *Pump Stand*. Gently scrub the roots from the *Pump Filter*.
- Place the *Pump Filter* back into the *Pump Stand*.

*After cleaning, there may still be a few roots in your* Pump Stand *or* Pump Filter. *This will not affect the operation of your AeroGarden.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE: We recommend replacing the* Pump Filter *after growing two Gardens. Order* Pump Filters *at: www.aerogrow.com.*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Prepare for Your Next Garden *(Continued)*

7. Clean the *Bowl* and *Grow Surface*.
   - Use a soft cloth or sponge to thoroughly wipe the *Bowl* and *Grow Surface*. A mild soap may be used if desired, but rinse thoroughly.
8. Sanitize your AeroGarden.
   - Fill *Bowl* 3/4 full with water.
   - Add 1 cup of chlorine bleach or disinfectant cleaner.
   - Replace *Grow Surface* on *Bowl*, place *Bowl* on *Base* and plug in AeroGarden for 1-2 minutes. (*Select Salad Greens on* Control Panel *to make sure the water is flowing.)*
   - Unplug AeroGarden and empty sanitizing water from *Bowl*.
   - Refill *Bowl* with tap water and replace on *Base*.
   - Plug in and run AeroGarden for 1-2 minutes. *(Select Salad Greens again.)*
   - Unplug AeroGarden and empty water from *Bowl*.
9. Towel dry the *Bowl* and *Grow Surface* before putting them back together and setting them back on the *Base*.
10. Your AeroGarden is now ready for replanting.
11. If you have an AeroGarden with a backup battery and you plan on storing your garden before replanting, remove the backup battery from the underside of the *Base*. If you need to replace the backup battery, use any CR2032 3-volt lithium battery. (*Newer AeroGardens no longer rely on batteries to power the backup system.*)

! Use only water and mild soap when cleaning your AeroGarden (except when Sanitizing - Step 8). Do not use abrasive cleaners or run through the dishwasher.

## If you have the...

# AeroGarden™ PRO100

To take full advantage of the enhanced features on your AeroGarden PRO100, please refer to this Addendum when using your Tending & Harvesting Guide. Enhanced features on the AeroGarden PRO100 include:

- **Replace Grow Bulbs** – indicator light lets you know when it is time to replace your Grow Bulbs. With this feature, you'll be sure your plants are always getting the right intensity and full spectrum of light needed for optimal growth.
- **Adaptive Intelligence** – automatically adjusts the amount of light, water and oxygen your plants receive at every stage of your plant's life.
- **"Super Grow" 24-Hour Light Cycle** – **this setting is not recommended for tomatoes and peppers!**

## AeroGarden PRO100 Smart Garden Control Panel Features

**Water Low**
Light blinks when it is time to add water

**Add Nutrient**
Light blinks when it is time to add nutrient tablets (every 2 weeks)

**Lights**
Temporarily turns the lights on or off

**Reset**
Press after adding nutrients and after replacing Grow Bulbs to reset timers and turn off the blinking lights

**Replace Grow Bulbs**
Light blinks when it is time to put in new Grow Bulbs

**Select**
Sets Control Panel to your Plant type or Super Grow Setting

**Adaptive Intelligence**
Light tracks garden growth from Germination to Mature Growth

*(Continued on next page)*

## Tend Your AeroGarden PRO*100* Garden

For the most part, tending your garden with the AeroGarden PRO*100* is identical to the original AeroGarden. You still set the unit to your specific plant type and indictor lights will tell you when to add nutrients and when the water level is low. But now, you can enjoy two additional features: the "Replace Grow Bulbs" indicator and Adaptive Growth Intelligence™.

## Replace Grow Bulbs

After 6 months of use, the quality of light from the *Grow Bulbs* in your AeroGarden PRO*100* begins to degrade. This happens with all fluorescent bulbs, but it is a critical issue when growing plants. In order for plants to be healthy and productive, they must receive the appropriate intensity and spectrum of light. For this reason, the AeroGarden PRO*100* is designed with a built-in timer that lets you know when it is time to replace your *Grow Bulbs*.

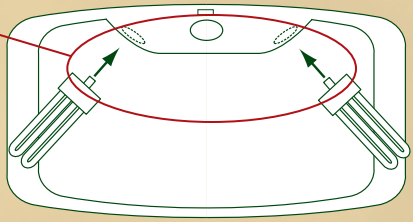
The light on the *Control Panel* next to "Replace Grow Bulbs" will blink after approximately 6 months of use.

*NOTE: If you store your AeroGarden PRO100 between uses, the "Replace Grow Bulbs" timer stops when the unit is unplugged. The timer restarts when the AeroGarden PRO100 is once again plugged in.*

When the red light next to "Replace Grow Bulbs" blinks, it is time to replace your *Grow Bulbs*.

## To replace *Grow Bulbs*:

- Unplug AeroGarden PRO*100*.
- Remove old *Grow Bulbs* and carefully discard.
  ***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** *To avoid burning, be sure the lights are off and the* Grow Bulbs *are cool to the touch before handling.*
- Insert new *Grow Bulbs* into *Lamp Hood*.
- Plug in AeroGarden PRO*100*.
- Quickly press and release the "Reset" button to restart the "Replace Grow Bulbs" timer.



If for some reason you need to replace the *Grow Bulbs* before the "Replace Grow Bulbs" light illuminates, be sure to restart the "Replace Grow Bulbs" timer as follows:

- Press and hold the "Lights" button until the white light next to the plant type selected starts blinking – about 5 seconds.
- Release the "Lights" button. The plant type selected light will continue to blink for about 9 seconds. While the plant light is still blinking…
- Quickly press and release the "Reset" button. The "Replace Grow Bulbs" light will blink once and the plant selected light will stop blinking.
- The "Replace Grow Bulbs" timer is now reset.

Order replacement Grow Bulbs at: **www.aerogrow.com**

# Adaptive Growth Intelligence™

## *(Light and Pump Cycles for Tomatoes/Peppers)*

The AeroGarden PRO*100* automatically adjusts the amount of light and water your plants receive based on plant growth to provide optimal growing conditions for every stage of your plants' life. The green lights on the *Control Panel* track garden growth from germination through mature growth.

The light and pump cycle on the "Tomatoes/Peppers" setting on the AeroGarden PRO*100* differs from what is described in other portions of this Tending & Harvesting Guide, which describes the original AeroGarden. The following information will help you take full advantage of the AeroGarden PRO*100*.

### Light Cycle

On the "Tomatoes/Peppers" setting, the AeroGarden PRO*100* automatically turns the lights on for 18 hours and off for 6 hours during "Germination" and "Initial Growth" phases. When the plants are mature, less light is needed and the light cycle changes to 16 hours on and 8 hours off. Your lights will continue to turn off at the same time of day when the light cycle changes, but the time of day the lights turn on will shift.

For example, if your lights are programmed to turn off at 11:00 at night, they will remain off for 6 hours during "Germination" and "Initial Growth" and automatically turn back on at 5:00 the next morning. The lights will stay on for 18 hours and then automatically turn off at 11:00 at night. When your garden is in the "Mature Growth" phase, the lights will now turn on at 7:00 in the morning (two hours later). After 16 hours, the lights will automatically turn off at 11:00 at night (the same time as during earlier growth phases) and remain off for 8 hours and then turn back on at 7:00 the next morning.

If you find the new timing of the light cycle inconvenient, you can reset the time your lights turn off. Please see "Set Your Light Timer" on page 31 of this Guide. Use the table below to help you with changing the light timer.

| Plant Stage | Hours of Light |
|---|---|
| Germination | 18 |
| Initial Growth | 18 |
| Mature Growth | 16 |

## Pump Cycle

"Adaptive Intelligence" also adjusts the amount of water your tomato plants receive based on actual plant growth. As a result, the number of hours the pump moves water over the *Seed Pods* changes as your garden matures. During "Germination," the AeroGarden PRO$^{100}$ moves water through the *Seed Pods* 12 hours a day. There are 6 hours of each day when the pump is not running and the lights are on, providing your tomato and pepper seeds with ideal conditions for sprouting.

During "Initial Growth," your plants need more water so the pump is on whenever the lights are on. When your garden moves into the "Mature Growth" phase, additional moisture and oxygen are needed to produce flavorful tomatoes and peppers, so the pump remains on at all times (24 hours a day).

# Prepare for Your Next AeroGarden PRO*100* Garden

Before planting a new garden in the AeroGarden PRO*100*, it is important to restart the nutrient timer and set the "Adaptive Intelligence" program to "Germination" – the first phase of plant growth. Before planting a new garden:

- Press and hold the "Reset" button until the red "Add Nutrient" light blinks 3 or 4 times (approximately 9 seconds).
- Release the "Reset" button. The "Add Nutrient" light will turn off.

*NOTE: These steps do not reset the "Replace Grow Bulbs" timer.*

# Seed Kit Limited Warranty

**What Is Covered**

This warranty covers any defects in materials or workmanship or non-germination on all Seed Kits, and unsuccessful harvest either within 28 days of planting for non-fruiting Seed Kits with Basil or within 40 days of planting for non-fruiting Seed Kits without Basil, with the exceptions stated below.

**How Long Coverage Lasts**

This warranty expires one year past the Germination Test Date shown on the Seed Kit box.

**What is Not Covered**

The warranty shall not apply to problems arising from: normal wear; failure to adhere to included Tending & Harvesting instructions; serial numbered products if the serial number has been removed or defaced; products subject to negligence, accident, improper use, maintenance or storage; products damaged by circumstances beyond AeroGrow International, Inc.'s control; loss or damage to removable parts; or products modified (including, but not limited to, modifications through the use of unauthorized parts or attachments) or repaired by anyone other than AeroGrow International, Inc. or its designee. This warranty excludes all incidental or consequential damages. This warranty becomes void if the Seed Kit is used in a growing system other than the AeroGarden and/or made by any manufacturer other than AeroGrow International, Inc., or if materials not provided or recommended by AeroGrow are used in or on the AeroGarden or applied to the plants grown using this Seed Kit.

**What AeroGrow Will Do**

AeroGrow International, Inc., at its option, will repair any defects in materials or workmanship or will replace these products with ones of similar features and price. For unsuccessful harvest, AeroGrow International, Inc. will replace this Seed Kit with an equivalent Seed Kit of AeroGrow's choosing. For a non-germinating seed pod, AeroGrow will replace it with a new seed pod of the same seed variety. AeroGrow International, Inc.'s sole obligation and your exclusive remedy under this warranty shall be limited to such repair or replacement.

**How To Return This Product**

If you have questions or concerns with your AeroGarden, please **do not return to retailer**. Call Customer Service at 1-800-476-9669 for return authorization and instructions. Unauthorized returns, as well as C.O.D. shipments, will be refused.

Due to continuing improvements, actual product may differ slightly from the product described herein. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other legal rights that vary from state to state. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our customer service representatives at customerservice@aerogrow.com.

AeroGrow International, Inc., P.O. Box 18450, Boulder, CO 80308

**www.aerogrow.com**

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**NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?**

**Call: 1-800-476-9669**
**Email: customerservice@aerogrow.com**
**Visit Our Website: www.aerogrow.com/help**

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